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1936

The art of the Surrealists in Denmark and Sweden
L'Art des Surréalistes en Danemark et en Suède
Surrealistisk Kunst i Danmark og Sverige

Foreword by
Forord af **Carl V. Petersen** Director of the Hirschsprung Collection, Copenhagen
Direktør for den Hirschsprungske Samling, København

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The Surrealist Movement in Denmark and Sweden.

Scandinavian art, compared with other European art, is of relatively recent date. In stating that it is two hundred years old, one has named the maximum, of which the first third represents only scattered efforts. It may be that this short life is the reason for its inability to assemble sufficient strength for any independent and creative initiative for renewal. However, it is a fact that the impulses for renewal have always come from without, the most important and positive from Paris.

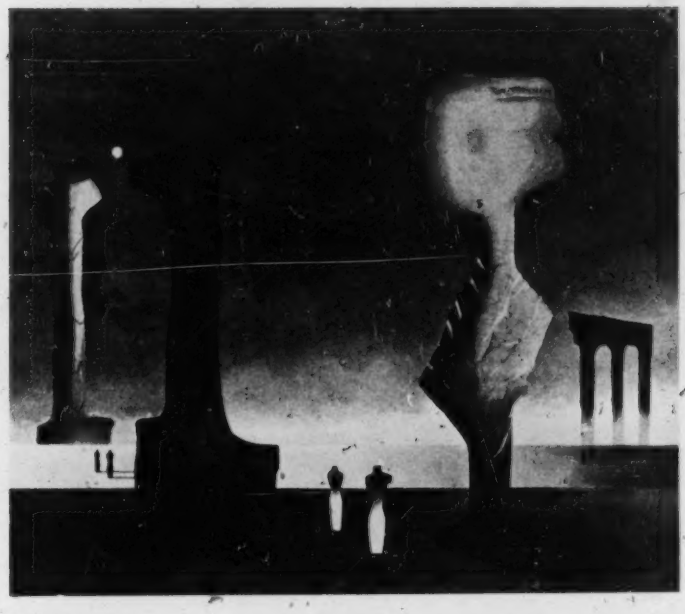
In this century—about 1910—the young Scandinavian artists, the Swedish studying with Matisse and the Danish realizing the importance of Picasso, became conscious of the new problems confronting them and, fortunately freeing themselves from the restraints of their national traditions, they commenced to experiment with these problems. Color, line, and form assumed a different meaning for them than hitherto; surface and space acquired other associations; and at home they endeavored by themselves to penetrate this new world which had been opened to them in Paris. Broadly speaking, however, this attempt was not very successful and did not have scholastic influence on art in general. These experiments soon ebbed out in compromises, due in large measure partly to the opposition encountered from all the »authorities«, partly to the lack of necessary perseverance and firmness on the part of the artists. However, the *real* explanation is that these problems were merely artistical problems;—anyway for the artists here in Scandinavia they remained purely artistical, formal problems without any relationship to a profound renewal of the mode of life and to the visible universe. That art which grew up had no life-renewed mould in which the artist's vision might establish roots and from which it might secure nourishment. It may be that they painted in a different manner than previously, but they continued to think, feel and act as they did in the Nineteenth Century. Their attitude toward life and the visible universe here in Scandinavia remained untouched by the new spirit of the time, by the new physical, social, psychological and historical conceptions.

It is in this respect that the Surrealist movement has brought about such a great change. From the standpoint of the history of art this movement in Denmark and Sweden has grown from the abstract art or from the abstract elements of Cubism, while the direct origin of its intellectual form may be attributed to that group of poets and artists, whose central figure is still André Breton, and to the outlook expressed by their production. Therefore, here in Scandinavia, as everywhere in the world, it represents not only an artistical but a spiritual renewal. The subject matter with which it is concerned not only decorates the canvas but it engages the mind. The artists know that this subject matter can be but imperfectly and incompletely expressed with the painter's brush, the sculptor's stick, or the writer's pen, and that the true and positive realization must eventually take place within the human being. But just this consciousness of collective and solidary collaboration in the basic readjustment within the human depths will keep them ever alert, striving, and earnestly laboring in their creative work.

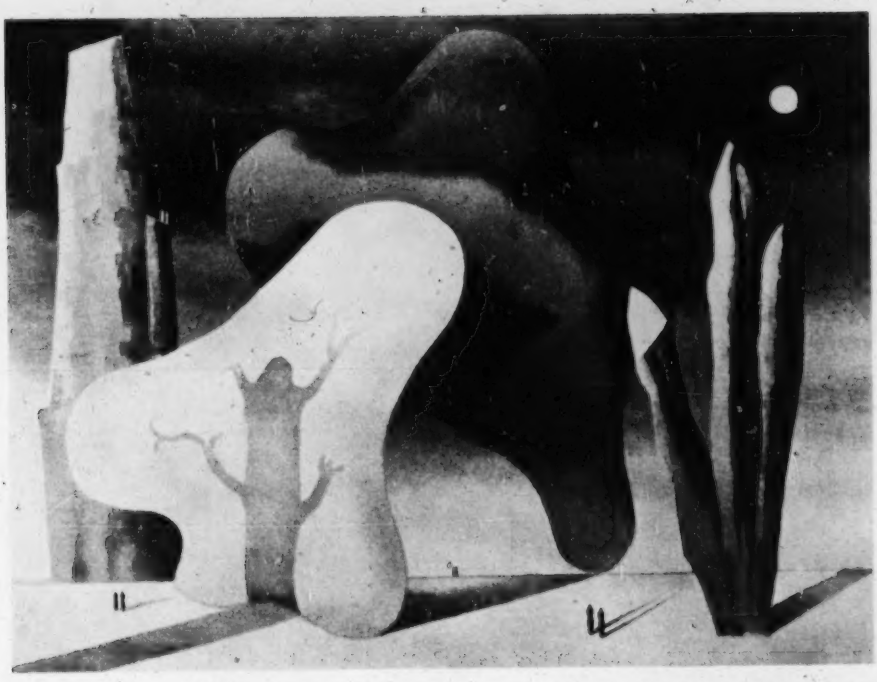
Carl V. Petersen.

First published May 1936
Edited by Vilh. Bjerke-Petersen, Højbroplads 15, Copenhagen, Denmark

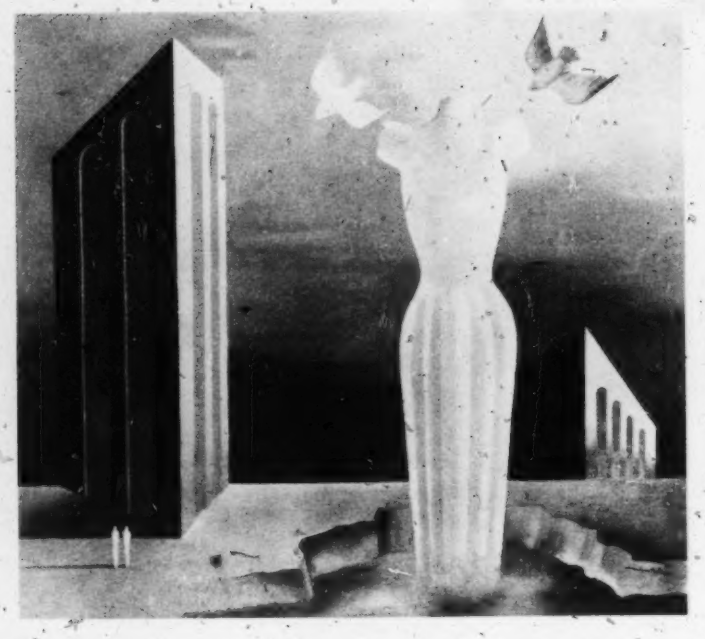
Sven Jonson . S



Dark Silence.
Silence sombre.
Mörk tystnad.



The Morning of the Plain.
Le matin de la plaine.
Slättens Morgon.

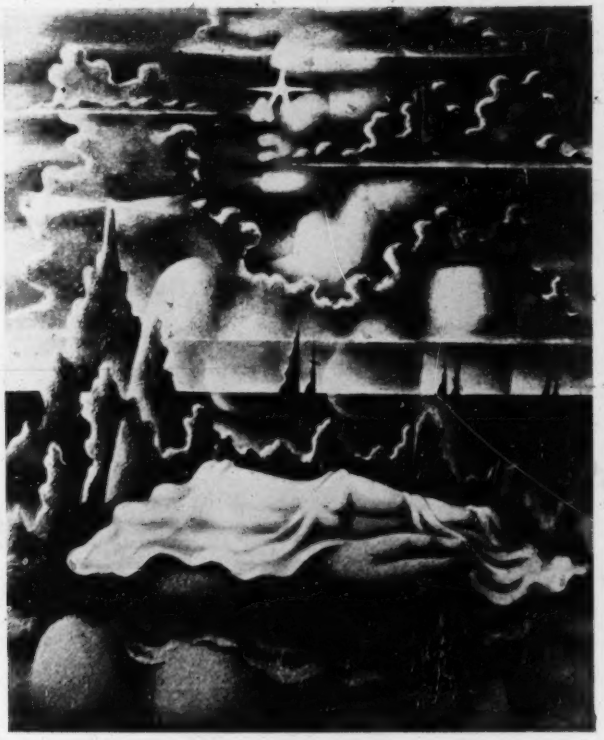


Dawn.
L'Aube.
Gryning.

Wald. Lorentzon . S

Ecstasy.
Extase.
Ekstas.

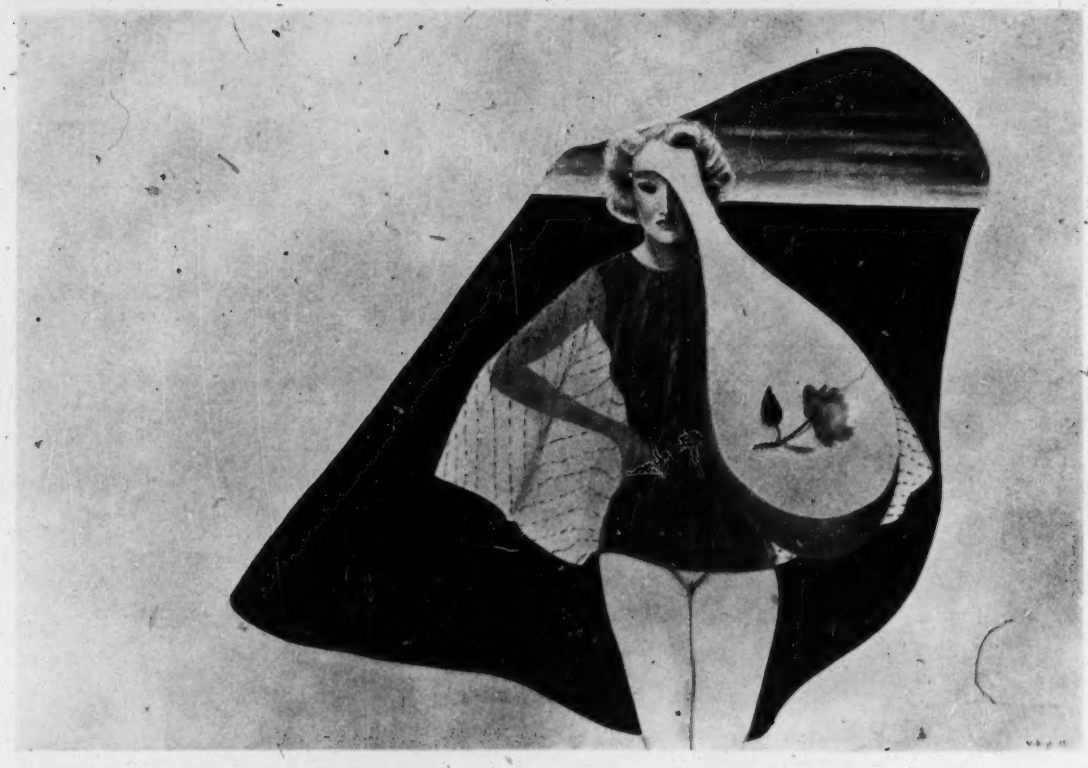
A spiritual Event.
Événement spirituel.
Upplevelse.



Cosmic Mother.
Mère cosmique.
Kosmisk moder.

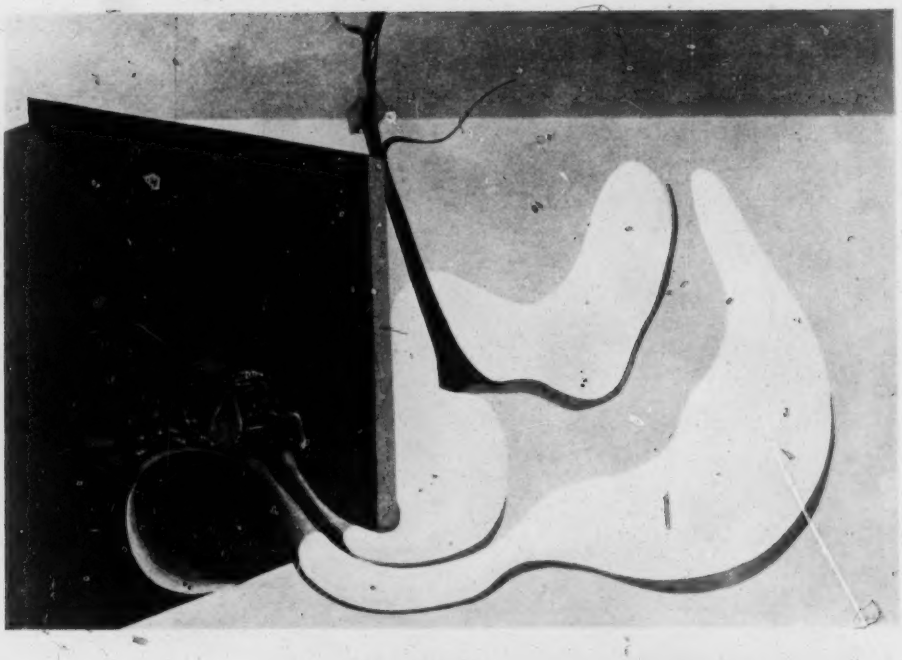
Vilh. Bjerke-Petersen . D

Worshiped Exhibitionism.
Exhibitionisme adoré.
Tilbedt Exhibitionisme.



The principal Actress at the X Theater.
La première actrice du theatre X.
Førsteskuespillerinde ved Theatret X.

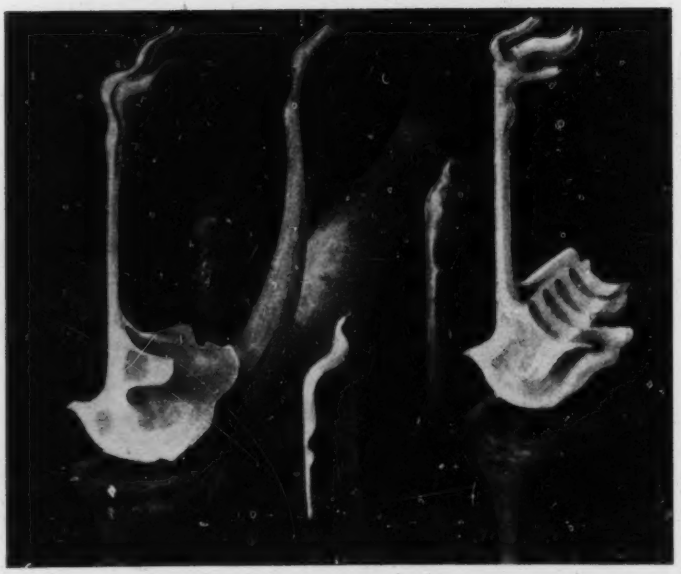
Hallucination.



Stellan Mörner . S

Lady Macbeth.

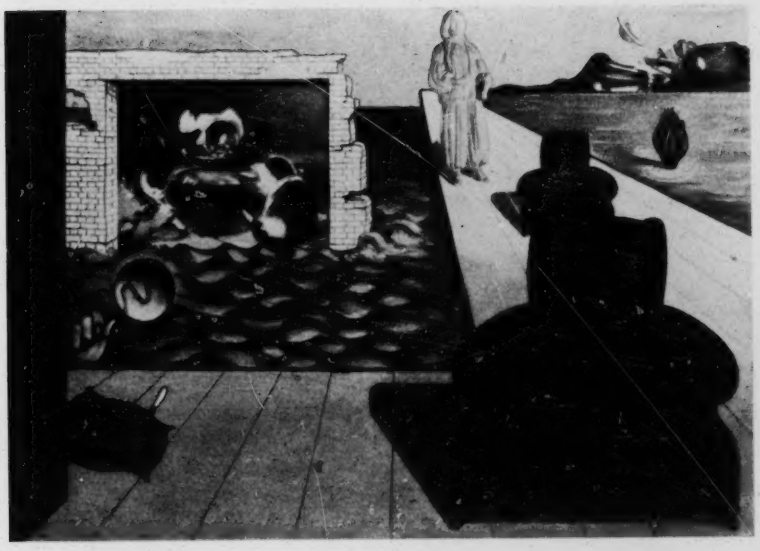
Solitude.
Ensamhet.



Embarkation To-Morrow Night.
L'embarquement demain soir.
Natlig Vision.

Harry Carlsson . D

Unstable Phlegm.
Flegme instable.
Ustabil Flegma.

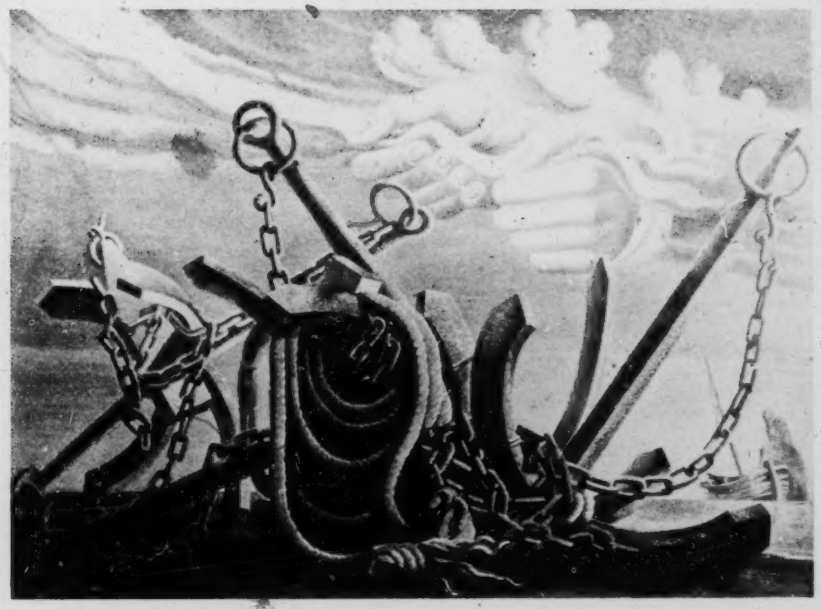


The Palettes of Apollo.
Les Palettes d'Apollo.
Apollos Paletter.

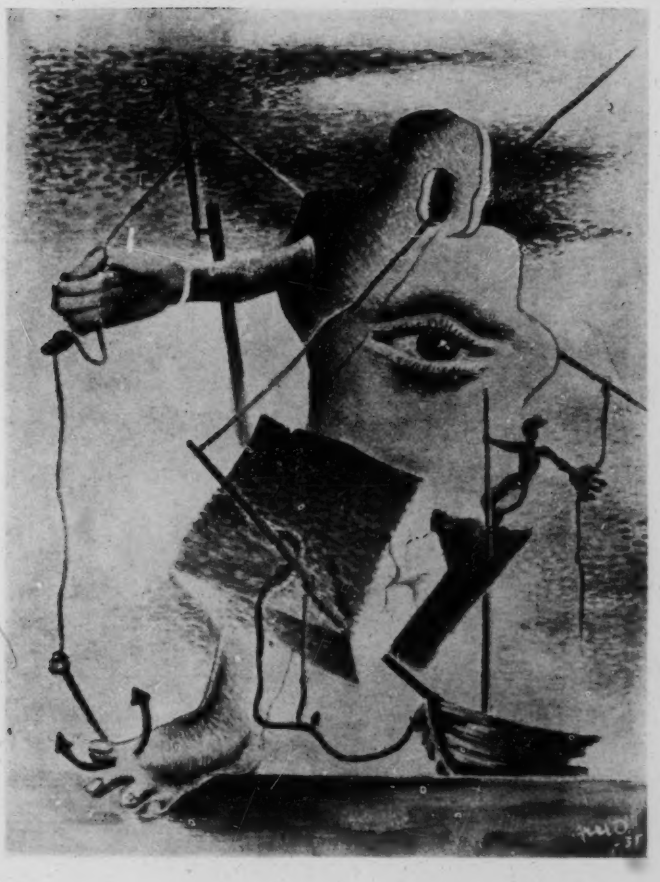
"The Poodle's Real Core".
"Le fin mot de l'affaire".
"Pudlens Kerne".

Axel Olson . S

Shipwreck.
Naufrage.
Skeppsbrott.



Anchoring in Reality.
Mouillage dans la réalité.
Förankring i verkligheten.



The Ships Face.
Le visage du navire.
Skeppets ansikte.

The Artists' Portrait. The King of Kings.
Portrait du peintre. Le Roi des Rois.
Kunstnerens Portræt. Kongernes Konge.

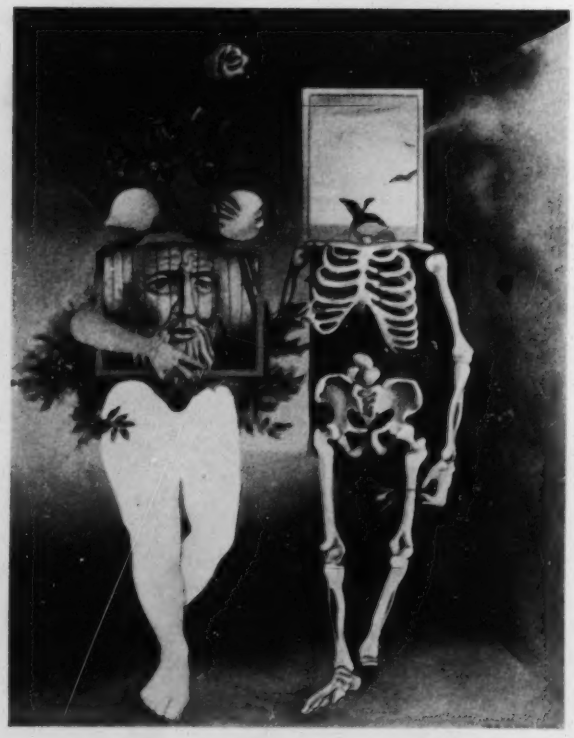
Emmy Hirsch in memoriam.

Solomonic Inspirations.
Inspirations de Salomon.
Salomoniske Inspirationer.

Erik Olson . S

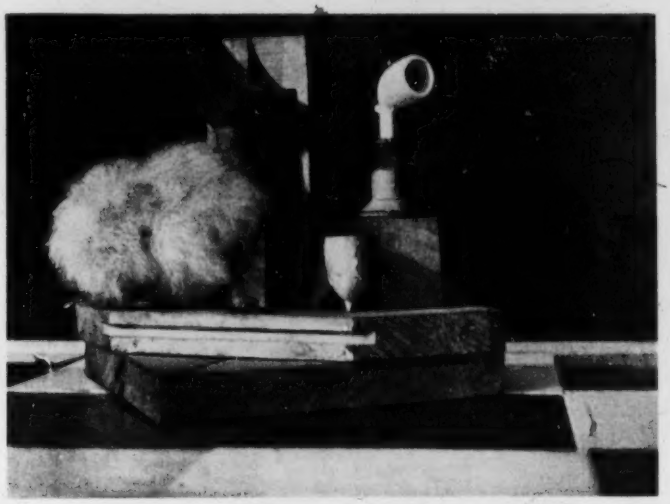
The Day Through the Night.
Le jour par la nuit.
Dagen genom natten. Nationalmuseum Stockholm.

The Outer Reef.
Les écueils extrêmes.
De yttersta skären.

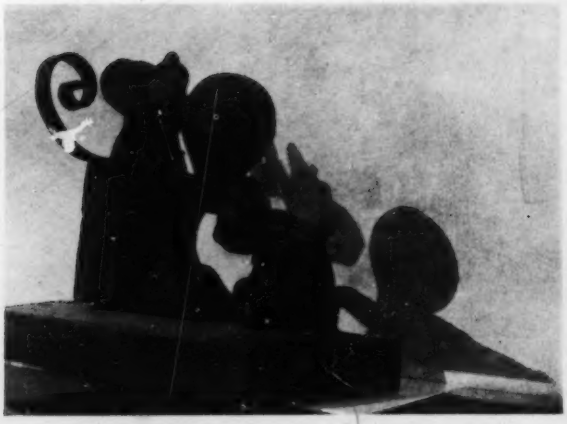


Dialogue in the Night.
Dialogue dans la nuit.
Samtal om natten.

Heerup . D



Surrealist Object.
Objet surréaliste.
Surrealistisk Objekt.



Surrealist Object.
Objet surréaliste.
Surrealistisk Objekt.

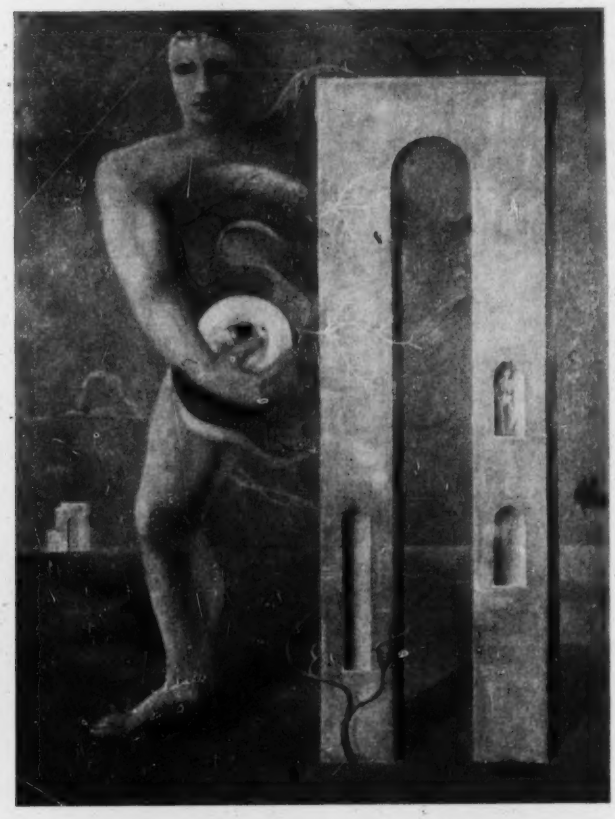
Torso of Marble.
Torse de marbre.
Marmortorso.

Rita Kernn-Larsen . D

Dance and Counter-Dance.
Danse et contre-danse.
Dans og Kontra-Dans.

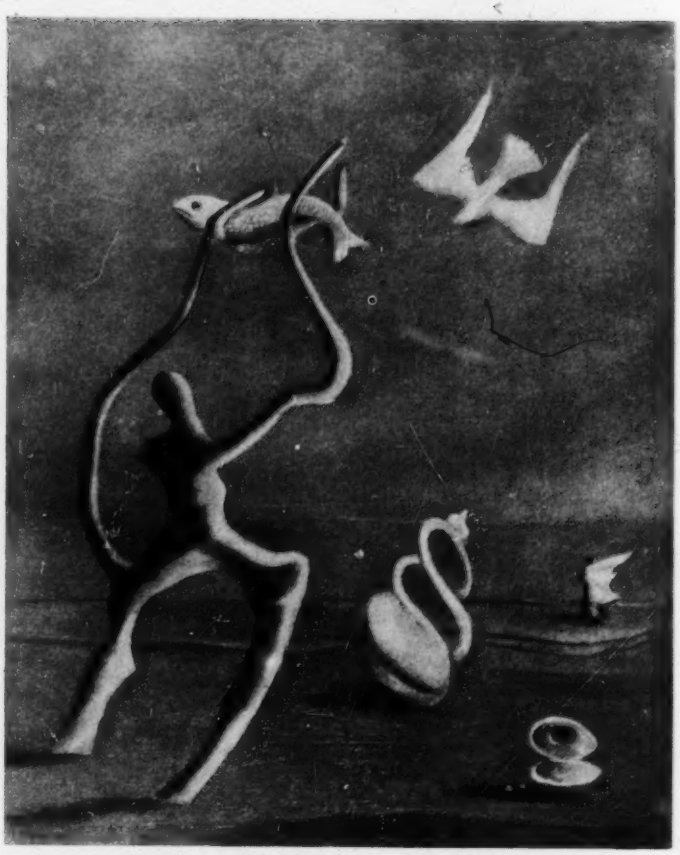
Escape.
Échappée.
Undsluppet.

Esaias Thorén . S



The Searcher.
Le scrutateur.
Forskaren.

The Woman of the Beach.
La femme de la plage.
Strandens kvinna.



Beach Fantasy.
Rêverie sur la plage.
Strandfantasi.

"KONKRETION". The surrealist group magazine. Back numbers, English Art To-day, price 1/—. The Surrealist Art in Paris, price 2/—.

The Art of Freddie, 16 reproductions, price 1/—.

The Art of Erik Olson, 14 reproductions, price 1/—.

Mindernes Virksomhed by Vilh. Bjerke-Petersen.
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Surrealism by Vilh. Bjerke-Petersen. 94 p. with 35 reproductions 4/—.

Symbols in Abstract Art by Vilh. Bjerke-Petersen. 60 diagrams 4/—.

8 Surrealist Lithographs of Freddie with an introduction by the artist 25/—.

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